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DOCUMENTS.

Carnegie Institution of Washington.
Washington, D. C.

Department of Historical Research.
J. Franklin Jameson, Director.

The Editor of the "Oregon Historical Quarterly,"

Dear Sir: I lately found among the papers of my uncle, who died four years ago, the letter of which I inclose a careful copy. The writer was his elder brother, my father, John Jameson of Massachusetts. I have thought that its list of wholesale prices in Oregon in 1852 might be of some interest to students of economic conditions in that early period.

My father, who was born in 1828, went out in 1851 to Oregon, going in a sailing vessel to San Francisco and thence by steamer to Portland. After a brief stay there he went to Buteville. I see that in this letter he spells it "Buteville," but I had always understood from him that it was properly spelled *Butteville.* I do not find the name in the *Postal Guide,* but the village was in existence some years ago. Indeed, I think you printed nine or ten years ago the reminiscences of an ancient French-Canadian who had lived there some sixty years and whom my father, to whom I showed the article in your *Quarterly,* remembered very well.[1]

These few months in Buteville were the only part of my father's life that was spent in commercial pursuits. He came back to Massachusetts in 1852, studied for the bar, taught for several years, and then practiced law. He died in 1905. The brother, ten years younger, to whom the letter is addressed, was subsequently Dr. R. Edwin Jameson of Boston.

Very respectfully yours,

J. F. JAMESON.

The Carnegie Institution of Washington,
November 27, 1909.

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1 F. X. Matthieu is no doubt the man to whom Dr. Jameson refers. See Quarterly, Vol. I, pp. 73-104.—Ed. Quarterly.

Buteville, Marion Co. Tues. Aug. 17, '52

Dear Brother Edwin,

I must commence with asking you to ask father to be sure to send me the Boston *semi weekly Atlas* from the *receipt* of this till the middle of November *or until all* the *election returns are in* EXCEPT California. Some time ago father asked me to send you a price current. I will transcribe from my Invoice Book the *wholesale* prices which I paid for my goods. The retail price (my selling price) is from 25 to 100 per cent above this. Freight from Portland here is about $20.00 per ton some by weight & some by measurement. So you see if *I only sell enough* I shall make a very good profit. I cannot stop to arrange them in the proper order.

Womens shoes pgd	.83—1.00
Kit boots pr	2.66
Grain " "	2.50
Cowhide "	3.00
Youths brogans "	.75
cut tumblers p doz	1.75—2.00
Linen check	.20— .26
Gingham	.18— .25
delaine	.27— .47
Lawn	.13½— .25
Prints	.10— .20
Irish linen	.37½— .54
Diaper & towelling	.16 2-3
Linen thread pr lb	1.00—1.50
wh spool cotton pr doz	.65— .75
Sad Irons " lb	.08
Essences (oz) pr doz	.37— .75
Saleratus	.09
Sugar Manilla	.09
" China	.10
" B Havanna	.13
" White	.14
white flannel	.45

Sheeting	.11— .16
table cloths, col'd	1.25
Bl'k Satinett	.75
Kentuck Jean	.38
Pins pr doz	.65— .75
white wove drawers	1.33
red flannel "	1.33
white shirts	1.33
fancy "	.62
Hudson Bay "	1.25
Tobacco	.25— .50
Chintz	.10
Coffee	.13— .15
Bed spreads	2.00
white linen table cloths	1.25
Coarse Sack coats	3.00
common " "	6.00
Fine " "	8.00
Misses hose (worsted)	.37½
Ladies cotton "	.18¾
white hats (fine fur)	3.12½
" " common	1.08
Blk brush hats	1.50
Mens cloth caps	1.00
" oil " "	.50
Soap brown pr lb	.10— .12½
" toilet " "	.25
Butcher knives	.25— .50
dining knives & forks pr doz	5.00
Powder pr lb	1.00
Soup tureens	2.00
Rice	.06— .10
Blk glazed cambric	.09
Fig'd Alpacca	.55
red flannel	.35
Shirt buttons pr gro	.75

Hickory shirting	.13
writing paper pr ream	4.00
Sewing Silk pr lb	8.00
Starch	.10
Tea	.45— 62½
Allspice	.50
Ginger	.10
Hooks & eyes pr gro	.37½
Camphor pr lb	.75
Percussion Caps pr 1000	1.25
Mould Candles	.20
Adamantine "	.50
Sperm "	.62½
Needles pr M	3.00
dried apples	.12— .14
raisins (cask) pr lb	.10— .12
Salt Liverpool " "	.03½
Pork Mess pr bbl	30.00
" Oregon " "	35.00
Cigars Havana pr M	25.00—40.00
English Walnuts pr lb	.20
Candy Stuarts " "	.50
tweed	.72
Lead (for bullets)	.14
tin pans pr doz	2.00—6.00
" wash bowls	.42
Blankets pr pair	4.75
tacks pr doz papers	1.00
Screws pr gro	.75
Nails cut	.10
Nutmegs pr lb	1.00
common brass candlesticks	.50
Syrup (Sugar House) gall	.50
Vinegar pr gall	.25
Pepper Sauce pr doz	4.50
Mustard " "	4.50

Grindstones	5.00
tobacco pipes pr gro	2.00
wooden pails	.45
Hoes & handles	.75
Brooms pr doz	3.00
Fry pans	.62½
Grain Sacks	.50
Collins axes pr doz	20.00
Shingling hatchets pr doz	9.00
Axe " " "	9.00
Bench " " "	24.00
Augers pr qr in	.20
Claw hammers per doz	6.00—15.00
Iron table spoons per doz	1.00
" tea " " "	.35
Padlocks	.42
Door latches	.16 2-3
Iron wedges pr lb	.12
Beetle rings " "	.12
Log Chains " "	.12½
Wrapping twine" "	1.00
Matches " gro	2.50
Castor Oil pr bottles	.62½
Shovels round point	2.00
Chocolate pr lb	.25
Common bowls doz	2.00
Small " "	1.50
Large yellow bowls doz	6.00
white bowls doz	3.33
deep dishes "	3.50—7.50
blue edge pudding dish doz	4.50
white " " "	6.00
blue edge platters "	7.50
white " "	9.00
Creamers white "	4.00
" colored "	3.00

Pitchers yellow	"	4.50
Pitchers white	pr doz	9.00
cover'd chambers	" "	5.50
Blk tea pots	" "	6.00
White " "		9.00
" Sugar bowls	" "	7.50
Yellow " " "	"	6.00
Soup plates	pr doz	2.00
dining " "	"	1.75
Breakfast " "	"	1.50
Tea " "	"	1.25
Preserve " "	"	1.00

I have omitted many articles I keep but I guess your list is long enough. My sales at present are very small as all the farmers are harvesting. I take in & pay in goods or cash, chickens (alive) at .75 to 1.00 a piece; Eggs at 50 cts doz; butter at 40c; wheat at 1.75 bus & Oats at 75c. And now my dear brother I must close with a little good advice. Be not an eye servant but do just the same when Mr. Davis is out as when he is in; Obey your dear parents & obey them *cheerfully* & with *alacrity*. I hope to hear of your going to sch[ool] again soon for you are losing the most precious days of your life. If you ever think of coming out here, study French. It is a very great disadvantage to me not understanding it. And now My dear Ed, good bye & may God Almighty bless you & may you try & serve him better & better as you grow older.

Yours truly

John Jameson

Write soon.